

## Message Text

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ACTION SY-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 M-03 USIE-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-15 NSC-10 NSCE-00 A-01 OPR-02

NEA-10 RSR-01 SCA-01 INRE-00 /076 W  
----- 130297

O R 211345 Z MAY 73

FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4209

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL RECIFE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAO PAULO 1114

FOR A/ SY

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, BR

SUBJECT: SECURITY- RELATED INCIDENTS AT CONSULATE

FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF RECENT SECURITY- RELATED INCIDENTS AT  
THE CONSULATE GENERAL:

SUMMARY: THERE HAVE BEEN A SERIES OF INCIDENTS, REPORTED  
BELOW IN DETAIL, AT OR NEAR THE HOUSE OF CONSUL JAMES N.  
LAWLER SINCE DECEMBER 1972. FIRST ANONYMOUS AND HARASSING  
TELEPHONE CALLS, THEN SURVEILLANCE OF MOVEMENT OF THE FAMILY  
AND THE HOUSE, THE USE OF AN AUTOMOBILE TO CUT OFF A TAXI  
APPROACHING THE LAWLER HOUSE, THE HURLING OF A SODA POP BOTTLE  
INTO THE SERVICE AREA AT NIGHT AND FINALLY A FIRE CAUSED, THE  
POLICE BELIEVE, BY A HIGH POTENCY BOMB LAUNCHED FROM A LAUNCHING  
DEVICE. THE RESIDENCE OF THE CONSUL GENERAL HAS ALSO RECEIVED  
NIGHT TIME TELEPHONE CALLS DURING THE SECOND HALF OF THE WEEK  
OF MAY 16 - 21 ( WHILE THE CONSUL GENERAL AND HIS WIFE WERE IN  
BRASILIA) AND SEVERAL IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS RETURN AT NOON  
MAY 21. AT NO TIME DID THE CALLER IDENTIFY HIMSELF OR SAY A  
WORD. THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER HAS ALSO RECENTLY RECEIVED  
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TWO SIMILAR TELEPHONE CALLS. END SUMMARY.

1. A SERIES OF SECURITY- RELATED INCIDENTS INVOLVING CONSUL JAMES N. LAWLER BEGAN IN LATE DECEMBER 1972. THE FIRST INCIDENTS RECORDED WERE TELEPHONE CALLS, OCCURRING ALMOST NIGHTLY FOR SEVERAL WEEKS IN LATE DECEMBER AND EARLY IN JANUARY. THE CALLS WERE FROM A MAN SPEAKING PORTUGUESE IN A LOUD, DEEP VOICE. THE SUBJECT MATTER WAS LARGELY PROTESTS OVER U. S. ACTIONS IN VIETNAM. THE TONE OF THE CALLS BECAME INCREASINGLY INTENSE AS THE DAYS WENT BY AND, DURING THE LAST FEW CALLS, THE CALLER WOULD SAY SUCH THINGS AS QUOTE IS THIS THE HOME OF THE SOON-TO- BE- DEAD AMERICAN CONSUL END QUOTE. AT THE TIME, THESE CALLS WERE CONSIDERED TO COME FROM A MENTALLY RETARDED PERSON WHO MIGHT HAVE LEARNED LAWLER' S NUMBER FROM THE DUTY OFFICER RECORDING.

2. FROM EARLY JANUARY TO MID- MARCH, THERE WERE NO CALLS. BEGINNING IN MID- MARCH, LAWLER' S FAMILY AND STAFF BEGAN TO NOTICE UNUSUAL ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA AROUND THEIR RESIDENCE. THERE WERE A NUMBER OF STRANGE CARS WHOSE OCCUPANTS SEEMED TO BE WATCHING THE HOUSE AND CHECKING COMINGS AND GOINGS. ALL THE LICENSE NUMBERS WHICH COULD BE OBTAINED WERE CHECKED WITH INCONCLUSIVE RESULTS. ONE MAN WAS OBSERVED PHOTOGRAPHING THE HOUSE FROM THE BRUSH AREA ACROSS THE STREET, BUT DISAPPEARED BEFORE HE COULD BE APPROACHED. A WOMAN, POSING AS A PROSTITUTE, STATIONED HERSELF THREE CONSECUTIVE DAYS AT THE BUS STOP ON AVENIDA MORUMBI WHERE SHE COULD EASILY CHECK ON THE COMINGS AND GOINGS AT THE HOUSE. SHE WAS DEPOSITED IN THE MORNING, PICKED UP AT NOON, PLACED THERE AGAIN AFTER LUNCH, AND PICKED UP IN THE EARLY EVENING - ALWAYS BY THE SAME RED VOLKSWAGEN TRAVELLING AT HIGH SPEEDS. LAWLER ALERTED THE AUTHORITIES (DOI) ON TWO OCCASIONS BXW UNFORTUNATELY THE WOMAN WAS NOT THERE ON EITHER OF THE TWO VISITS DOI OFFICIALS MADE TO THE AREA.# IN RETROSPECT, IT SEEMS CLEAR ALL THESE ACTIVITIES WERE CONNECTED WITH THE CASING OF THE HOUSE AND AREA AND THE MOVEMENTS IN AND OUT OF THE HOUSE. THE FACT THAT THE MOVEMENTS WERE BEING WATCHED WAS DEMONSTRATED DURING A TRIP THAT LAWLER MADE TO PROTO ALEGRE DURING THIS TIME. SEVERAL THREATENING CALLS WERE MADE TO HIS HOME DURING HIS ABSENCE, ONE SAYING TO MRS. LAWLER THAT THE CALLER KNEW HER HUSBAND WAS AWAY AND WONDERED WHEN HE WOULD BE COMING BACK. ANOTHER CALLER WARNED

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HER TO WATCH HER STEP AND BE CAREFUL.

3. EXCEPT FOR THE OCCASIONAL STRANGE MOVEMENTS OF CARS IN THE AREA, NOTHING ELSE HAPPENED UNTIL EARLY MAY WHEN LAWLER AND HIS WIFE WERE IN RIO. THREE TIMES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, ONCE AT 2:00 A.. AND TWICE AT 3:00 A. M., SOMEONE CALLED THE LAWLER' S HOUSE IN SAO PAULO ASKING IF THE GUARDS WERE ON DUTY.

4. THE MOST SERIOUS INCIDENT TO DATE OCCURRED ON THE NIGHT OF  
14 MAY WHEN ONE OF LAWLER'S MAIDS, WHO HAD BE  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SAO PAULO 1114

FOR A/ SY

5. ON THE NIGHT OF 15 MAY AT ABOUT 2330 HOURS, A BOTTLE WAS  
THROWN INTO THE SERVICE AREA OF THE HOUSE. IT MADE A LOUD  
NOISE AND AROUSED THE ATTENTION OF THE GUARDS. THE REMNANTS  
OF THE BROKEN BOTTLE SHOWED NO SIGNS OF CONTAINING AN EXPLOSIVE.  
AGAIN IN RETROSPECT, IT SEEMS THIS WAS PROBABLY A DRY RUN  
AND PROBABLY LED TO THE DECISION TO THROW ( OR SET TO GO OFF)  
THE BOMB DURING THE DAY RATHER THAN AT NIGHT.

6. ON THE MORNING OF THE 16 TH TWO WOMEN, WELL DRESSED BUT  
ACTING VERY STRANGELY, MADE THREE VISITS TO THE FRONT DOOR OF  
THE HOUSE WHILE MRS. LAWLER WAS OUT, THE FIRST VISIT COMING SO  
SOON AFTER HER DEPARTURE AS TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THEY PUR-  
POSELY WAITED FOR HER TO LEAVE BEFORE APPROACHING. THEY ASKED  
ONLY FOR THE " DONA DA CASA." TWICE MORE THEY RETURNED, ON THE  
THIRD VISIT LEAVING A MESSAGE WITH THE MAID THAT " DONA GRACIELA"  
HAD COME BY. MRS. LAWLER KNOWS NO " DONA GRACIELA\*" THIS APPEARS  
TO HAVE BEEN ANOTHER HARRASSMENT EFFORT. THE WOMEN WERE  
APPARENTLY  
NOT SELLING CONTRABAND AS THEY VISITED NO OTHER HOMES IN  
THE AREA.

7. AT ABOUT 1030 HOURS ON THE MORNING OF 18 MAY, A MAN SPEAKING  
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GOOD PORTUGUESE IN A LOUD, DEEP VOICE CALLED AND SAID THE FOLLOWING: " WE KNOW THAT THIS IS THE HOME OF THE NORTHAMERICAN CONSUL JAMES LAWLER WHO LIVES IN MORUMBI. WE WANT TO ADVISE YOU THAT A BOMB IS GOING TO EXPLODE IN YOUR HOME IN FIFTEEN MINUTES." A SECOND CALL A FEW MINUTES LATER SAID THE SAME THING BUT SAID THE BOMB WOULD EXPLODE IN TEN MINUTES. SINCE MRS. LAWLER WAS NOT HOME, THE MAID CALLED LAWLER AT THE CONSULATE. LAWLER INSTRUCTED THE MAID THAT SHE SHOULD LEAVE THE PREMISES IMMEDIATELY AND TAKE LAWLER'S DAUGHTER AND THE REST OF THE STAFF AND TAKE A WALK UP THE STREET. WE THEN CALLED THE DOI BOMB SQUAD AS WELL AS DEOPS. NOTHING HAPPENED AT THE INDICATED HOURS. THE BOMB SQUAD MADE A CHECK OF THE HOUSE AND COULD NOT FIND ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS. THE FAMILY AND STAFF RE-ENTERED THE HOUSE, TRANQUIL AT THE KNOWLEDGE THAT EVERYTHING WAS APPARENTLY FINE.

8. AT APPROXIMATELY 1630 IN THE AFTERNOON OF THE SAME DAY MRS. LAWLER CALLED THE CONSULATE TO REPORT THAT THE HOUSE WAS ON FIRE, THAT SHE AND THE CHILDREN WERE LEAVING, AND THAT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN CALLED. THE FIRE WAS QUICKLY EXTINGUISHED, LARGELY THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THE NEIGHBOR'S HOUSEBOY WHO SAW IT BEGIN AND REACTED IMMEDIATELY BY CARRYING PAILS OF WATER FROM HIS HOUSE TO TRY TO PUT IT OUT. THE FIRE STARTED ON THE BACK UPSTAIRS TERRACE. WHILE DAMAGE WAS NOT INSIGNIFICANT, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH WORSE WERE IT NOT FOR SEVERAL LUCKY CIRCUMSTANCES. THE DOOR LEADING INTO THE HOUSE FROM THE TERRACE WAS CLOSED WHICH PREVENTED THE FIRE FROM IMMEDIATELY PENETRATING; MATTRESSES, WHICH ARE NORMALLY STORED ON THE BACK TERRACE, HAD FORTUITOUSLY BEEN MOVED ONLY HOURS EARLIER IN ANTICIPATION OF HOUSEGUESTS EXPECTED FOR THE WEEKEND.

9. THE PRELIMINARY IMPRESSION OF THE TECHNICAL POLICE WHO INVESTIGATED THE DAMAGE IS THAT THE FIRE WAS CASUED BY A " HIGH POTENCY" BOMB WHICH WAS FIRED FROM SOME SORT OF A LAUNCHING GUN FROM THE BRUSH AREA IN BACK OF THE HOUSE. THEY ESTIMATE HEAT REACHED 600 DEGREES.

10. SEVERAL SECURITY SERVICES ARE NOW INVOLVED IN THE INVESTIGATION. OFFICIALS OF THESE SERVICES GENERALLY TEND TO BELIEVE THAT LAWLER HAS BEEN SINGLED OUT AS A TARGET BY SOME PERSON OR GROUP. THE SAO PAULO DEOPS CHIEF WARNED LAWLER ON 21 MAY  
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THAT HE SHOULD NOW BE ALERT FOR A POSSIBLE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT. HE SAID AUTHORITIES BELIEVE THAT WHATEVER ELEMENTS ARE INVOLVED, HAVING FAILED IN THE KIDNAPPING ATTEMPT AND HAVING BEEN ONLY PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL IN THE BOMBING, MIGHT NOW GO FOR BROKE AND ATTEMPT AN ASSASSINATION.

CHAPIN

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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